

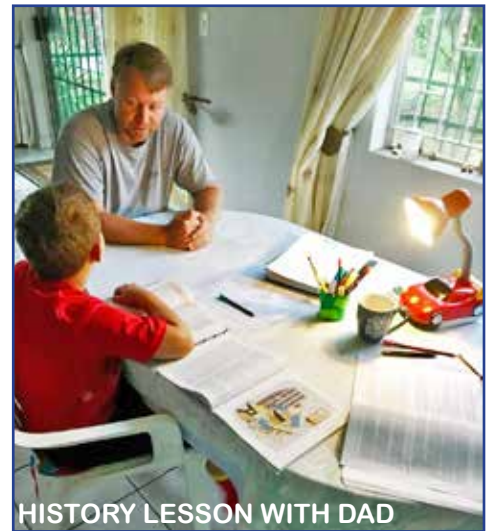
December 2017

Greetings to our brothers and sisters in Christ!

I hope this letter finds you rejoicing in the hope of eternal life promised to us in Christ!

December has come, and changes came with it. Many of them are good, though! Mathias is just finishing up his first year of home schooling, and he is doing quite well. Life at the farm is providing him plenty of opportunities to learn other useful things too. The dry season is gone and constant rains have done wonders for our little plants, and we're happy about that too.

Another change is that in South Africa many things simply shut down in December. Among them are the weekly Bible studies. Folks travel back home to see family, but for those who stay behind we have a plan to make personal visits to the homes of all who came through our Bible studies and church services but haven't stayed/joined. We plan on visiting and praying with them in hopes of sowing again the seed of the gospel of Grace. This initiative is that of Pastor-in-training, Vusi Maguma, a gifted organizer. The Lord is opening many doors through him. Please pray for his family, especially his older daughter, who no longer lives with them. Please pray she'll be more open to instruction from her parents.



HISTORY LESSON WITH DAD



SPIRITUAL MEN OF LEHAE

While I'm talking of Pastor Vusi, the church that meets in his house in Lehae (Soweto) has continued to grow, so much so that I was no longer able to organize things by myself, which is a state I usually long for, haha! We've already had two "leadership meetings" among the spiritual men to decide about church activities. When I say *spiritual men*, I really mean it. I've been to board meetings in my life where there's a lot of talk, few decisions and little action—so frustrating! It is not so with these men. In the picture you see me on the left, then Charles, then Vusi, then Nico on the far right. Vusi is a graduate of the Bible school; Nico has one more year to go. Charles will begin his first year in 2018—we hope! (His job doesn't allow him weekends off, so we've got to pray for a solution! He dearly wants to join!) I am grooming the three of them for ministry, and they are all preaching already.

Their training is so *on-the-job* that as I train them all, they also constantly give each other pointers, especially Nico, who is always teaching Charles. Nico is 30, but he's been a youth pastor in another church for years and is very respected.

In Krugersdorp growth is slow. We've had a new member join, and the existing ones are firm in the Lord. Those in training are already starting to teach under my supervision (at Bible studies), but we feel that progress is a bit slow. Please pray with us about the group in Krugersdorp!

The Padayhags, our missionary co-workers, are scheduled to leave South Africa for their furlough at the end of January. Guess who was chosen as the new director of the three branches of the Bible School? Yep, the board all looked at me and there was nowhere to hide . . . kidding, of course. I love the opportunity and the challenge. I'll have to make sure each Bible school branch is up and running by mid-January 2018. I have to do it in such a way that each branch has its own principal, so that when we depart from SA, the schools will continue operating as usual. It's a big transition for the Bible school: it began entirely led by missionaries, and now it will transition into being entirely led by the national/local leaders. I covet your prayers that the other teachers and I would be extra sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading, because if done right, good fruit will come of it for many generations.



WORSHIP IN KRUGERSDORP

**THINGS
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BELOVED WOMEN OF LEHAE

**GRACE BEREAN BIBLE SCHOOL
TSHEPISONG BRANCH**



So far we're very pleased with our Tshepiso branch of the Bible school. This year 11 out of 12 students stuck it out and passed their first year, and three more teachers were identified who can help with next year's classes.

We'd like to give thanks to you for reading up on us through these prayer letters and social media. Your interest and prayers alone are such a help in this ministry, but your feedback and constant encouragement is a huge boost! Your partnership in this work keeps it going, and we are honored to be co-laborers with you. Thank you!

Hugs in Christ,

Paul with Mariana and Mathias

This is Bea. Her mom died after giving birth to her, so Mathias adopted her as a pet. It will be a little hard when she grows into a big cow!

